

power to be serious. Shallow thinking and living result in shallow brains.

7. But the gravest danger of all is that of losing power with God. Esau got his pottage but what a price he paid for it. Samson when he laid his head in the harlot's lap and lost his power with God is only a type of many who do the same today.

We are taught to rejoice in every good thing but in all things to seek first the kingdom. Jesus ate and drank with men and his joy was full but he "rejoiced in spirit" not in selfish ways. It pays to follow his example. Isaiah saw in his vision of the last day the Lord's house "in the tops of the mountains" and says, "all nations shall flow into it." To win the world we must not let down the bars but lift up ourselves.

Our Young People

It Pays

Annie E. Trent, in Good Cheer.

It pays to wear a smiling face
And laugh our troubles down,
For all our little trials wait
Our laughter or our frown.
Beneath the magic of a smile
Our doubts will fade away,
As melts the frost in early spring
Beneath the sunny ray.

It pays to make a worthy cause,
By helping it, our own;
To give the current of our lives
A true and noble tone.
It pays to comfort heavy hearts,
Oppressed with dull despair,
And leave in sorrow-darkened lives
One gleam of brightness there.

It pays to give a helping hand
To eager, earnest youth;
To note, with all their waywardness,
Their courage and their truth;
To strive with sympathy and love,
Their confidence to win;
It pays to open wide the heart
And "let the sunshine in."

OUR OWN CHURCH: WHAT CAN WE DO FOR HER?—Ps. 122: 1-9

Topic for Oct. 1. (A meeting to discuss denominational work, led by the pastor.)

It has been said that the co-operation of the young people in the C. E. movement would make them disloyal to their own church. The history of the movement thus far does not prove the charge. Co-operation in Sunday school work does not hinder denominational loyalty and with such topics as the one for this week the C. E. movement ought to foster such a spirit as much as is good. Too much loyalty becomes bigotry and sectarianism. As some of the 55 865 societies which are using the topic this week study about the church they will speak of their hundreds of foreign missionaries, of their fine colleges and great papers and beautiful churches and large numbers. We cannot boast of numbers or wealth or achievement except in an humble way. God has given us prosperity in proportion to our age and loyalty and we can point to progress that is inspiring. It is not always the largest light that shines the farthest. A single good person may do more good than a thousand average persons and a small church if loyal, progressive and enthusiastic may have an influence all out of proportion to its size. This has been true of the Quakers and it is true of us and will be more and more as we become known.

But for this to be true we must rally to her support and that with all our might. The college needs students and endowment; the mission board needs

the Lord's tithe from all and the laborers whom he has called to go to other parts of his vineyard. The Publishing House needs help in extending its field and in supplying good seed for its sowing. Young people of talent are growing up all over the brotherhood. O that they may be consecrated! It is sickening to see so many sucking the poison of tobacco into their systems, dancing away their heritage of time and strength in giddy pleasure-seeking, and going on in idleness without a thought of duty or purpose or of their high calling in the world. Young people of the Brethren church be not among such. Use your talent for the kingdom. Can you preach? Then say, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel." Can you sing? Then say, "Woe is me if I sing not the gospel whether I sit in the choir or not." Can you make money? Then as Dr. Clark charged the Endeavorers at Detroit, "Make money for God." Our business men are too slow to realize that God has given them a calling just as real as the call to the ministry, and it is just as incumbent upon them that they live simply while they use their wealth for the kingdom as it is incumbent upon a minister that he live simply while he devotes his time to the kingdom and its needs.

The church is God's means in this dispensation of preserving his revelation and spreading the gospel. It is the body of Christ beloved and holy. To become a member of it is infinitely more than to join a society. Once a member our lives ought to be surrendered to its needs as a whole even as a hand or an eye works not alone, but for the good of the whole body. There is not a more important topic this year than this one. Pray for it and set the meeting on fire with your earnestness.

SCRIPTURE LIGHT

The Church

- 1 Its foundation—Christ, Matt. 16: 18; Eph. 2: 19-22.
- 2 Its head—Christ, Eph. 1: 21-23.
- 3 How entered, I Cor. 12: 13.
- 4 Its mission, Eph. 4: 11-17.
- 5 Its destiny, Eph. 5: 24-29.

Your duty to the church

- 6 Live worthy of your calling, Eph. 4: 1-3.
- 7 Win others to Christ, James 5: 20.
- 8 Attend the services, Heb. 10: 25.
- 9 Support its institutions, Heb. 13: 9.
- 10 Heed your pastor and elders, Heb. 13: 7-17.
- 11 Pay tithes and offerings, Matt. 23: 23; I Cor. 16: 2.
- 12 Help the weak, Gal. 6: 1.

TOPICS FOR TALKS

- 1 What is the relation of the Brethren church to the general church of Christ?
- 2 What needful place is the Brethren church filling that no other denomination is filling?
- 3 What special reasons have members of the Brethren church to be loyal to their own church?
- 4 What have been some of the good steps of progress the Brethren church has taken?
- 5 What has our society done and what will it do for missions?
- 6 What has our society done and what will it do for Ashland University?
- 7 What has our society done and what will it do for our Publishing House?
- 8 What more can we do to raise the standard of holy living among our people?
- 9 What more can we do to increase the spirit of giving among our people?
- 10 What more can we do to win souls for Christ? Let everybody answer,—Why are you a member of the Brethren church and what are your duties as a member?

To the leader.—This topic comes at a good time for a rally meeting. The busy season is over and the evenings are longer. Before the pleasure gatherings get hold of the young people they should be put to work for the church. Plan work for this meeting. Get all you can to help you. See how many take the EVANGELIST and have paid for it. See how many are helping the cause of missions. Hunt up the idle talent and plan to use it.

If a church is to be up and doing, the leader must be up and doing. If the society is not doing much it may be partly the pastor's fault. If he is not interested in the work get him interested at this meeting. Make it the beginning of a revival that shall last all winter.
C. F. YODER.

From the President

I wrote last week about the necessity of work in the Christian life, and that the Young People's society is to be encouraged and supported, because it furnishes a field of work for the younger element of the membership of the church, which, until the beginning of the Young People's movement was entirely neglected. This week I shall write of the work that we shall attempt to do during the present conference year.

Solomon said: "The nation that hath no vision shall perish," and the saying is none the less true when applied to individuals. We should, in all things have an end or ideal, toward which to work. Life is too short and valuable to spend it aimlessly. We have but one life, and our concern should be to make it the best possible. But to do this, without waste of time and energy we must needs have an ideal before us. Lowell says,

Life is a leaf of paper white,
Whereon each one of us may write,
A word or two and then comes night.

But no man writes without some ideal before him. The great writer or composer is the person that has seen a vision, and reduces it to physical symbols that others may share the vision with him. The poet Gay writes:

Time is the warp of life.
O teach the young, the gay, the fair,
To weave it well.

But the weaver too, must needs have his pattern before him. The threads are not put into the loom in a hapless way. The weaver first sees the design in his own mind and arranges his materials accordingly. Bishop Doane wrote:

Skulptors of life are we as we stand,
With our lives uncarved before us,
Waiting the hour when at God's command,
Our life dream passes o'er us.

If we carve it yet on the yielding stone,
With many a sharp incision,
Its heavenly beauty shall be our own,—
Our lives—that angel's vision.

But no sculptor works without an ideal before him. Marble is too valuable to be cut away aimlessly. The sculptor first sees a vision, an ideal, and then works. It is said of Michael Angelo, that when he had received a vision which perhaps he had been waiting a long time for, he would seize his chisel and hammer and work like a madman, not stopping to take food, until he would fall exhausted before his work.

I have referred to these quotations, only to show you the need of having before you an ideal for life's attempts. All truly great men in whatever department of life, have been men of vision.

It follows, from the above, that we will not rise above our ideals; hence the neces-